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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/993,969	11/14/2001	Paul A. Siudzinski	7709-C	9013

7590 05/10/2002

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EXAMINER

TRAN A, PHI DIEU N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/993,969

Applicant(s)

SIUDZINSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Phi D A

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 23-29 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6318036. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify claim 3 to show that the inactive leaf being secured to said astragal member by threaded fasteners as threaded fasteners, nail etc...are well-known expedient in the art for connectors structural members together.

3. Claim 30 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 6318036 in view of Yane(5675947).

Claim 3 in U.S. Patent No. 6318036 as modified shows all the claimed limitations except for a latch mechanism mounted within said door panel frame of said second door panel between said parallel spaced inner walls.

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Yane shows a latch mechanism mounted on a door frame between parallel spaced walls to enable opening and closing of doors.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify claim 3 of patent 6318036 to show a latch mechanism mounted within said door panel frame of said second door panel between said parallel spaced inner walls because it would enable to easy opening and closing of the door panel frame of said second door panel.

4. Claims 31 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 7 of U.S. Patent No. 6318036. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify claim 7 of patent 6318036 to show the inactive leaf secured to said main frame as it is a matter of design choice to attach the inactive leaf to the main frame instead of the astragal to enable the opening of door on a different side of the frame.

5. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

6. Claims 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-2 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6318036. This is a double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

I. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yane (5675947) in view of Governale (5822923) and Miller et al (4532743).

Yane shows a patio door assembly having jamb members, head member, bottom sill member, a vertical astragal member (16) between the jamb members and rigidly connected to said head and sill members, the members being made of extruded plastics, a two leafs gear hinge (41, figure 2) having an active leaf and an inactive leaf (the one connecting to the astragal being inactive) connecting the astragal member to the door panel, said hinge covering an edge of said second door panel frame, said frame of each door panel having parallel spaced outer side walls (11'), inner walls (A, appendix A) spaced substantially parallel to said side walls, a plurality of internal walls (B) extending laterally of the side walls and connecting the side and inner walls.

Yane does not show door panel frames and said main frame each having welded mitered corner joints and an angular insert strip attached by a snap-fit to said exterior portions to define a channel adapted to receive a sliding screen door.

Miller et al (figure 9) shows an angular insert strip attached by a snap-fit to exterior portion of head and jamb members to define a channel adapted to receive a sliding screen door.

Governale discloses the use of mitered joint for the main frames at corner.

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Yane to show door panel frames and said main frame having welded mitered corner joints and an angular insert strip attached by a snap-fit to said exterior portions to define a channel adapted to receive a sliding screen door because the use of welded mitered corner joint in frame structures is a common expedient in the art to tightly connecting the frame structures together and using an angular insert strip attached by a snap-fit to exterior portions of said head and jamb members to define a channel adapted to receive a sliding screen door would allow for easy installment of a screen door to the structures.

Conclusion

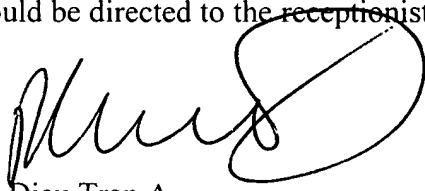
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art shows different patio door assemblies.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 703-306-9136. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 703-308-2486. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phi Dieu Tran A', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

Phi Dieu Tran A
May 6, 2002